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## David's Story: A Litany

*This is one adaptation of David's story, prepared by Maila Davenport, with the hope that it be used in worship services or gatherings as a collective reading or litany of sorts. We encourage you to use and adapt for your own congregation!*

David no longer hopes to be released,  
he expects to be deported back to Mexico.  
He's really bright, a hard worker  
and has ambitions and dreams.

David has lived in the US since he was a little boy.  
On the outside, he was an auto mechanic.

I have never seen **David** so low in spirit,  
He admits being too depressed by NORCOR  
to even talk to family on the phone.  
David tries to keep his mind on his purpose at NORCOR which he says  
is to become a better person and to help others:  
he enjoys his kitchen job,  
being able to watch the extra television  
he likes his classes -- especially the parenting class  
He confides he misses his five-year-old

David's really bright, a hard worker  
and has ambitions and dreams.

And as we talk more, his voice lowers,  
he is very depressed about his family situation,  
He misses his whole family.  
Daily he faces uncertainty:

the longing to see his young family again and  
the depression of being deported

I ask what is possible for him in Mexico?

"I will join the military—

I do not want to live in the same town as my relatives--the drug  
cartels run the town,

they have already killed one uncle.

In that town there is no help for my family,  
the police are corrupt."

In spite of all this, David says, "We are all in this together. We have to  
stay strong."

David's really bright, a hard worker  
and has ambitions and dreams.

David's story here does not have a happy ending.

He was deported. But his story lives  
here in the US with us today.

May David's story and his ending words help us to ignite the spark of  
justice within each of us:

*"We are all in this together. We have to stay strong.*

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*David's story is one in a [series of stories](#) from immigrants who have been detained at NORCOR, a four-county public jail in The Dalles, OR. NORCOR has a contract to rent out beds to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) - in violation of Oregon's 30-year-old sanctuary law. Stories in the series have been written by either clergy or attorneys - the only people who are currently allowed to visit immigrants detained at NORCOR. Names and minor details have been changed to protect individuals' privacy.*